

FY 2026 After School Impact Report

2025-2026 School Year

Highlights

- 1,265 students served
- 13 funded partner agencies
- 10,249 program activities provided
- 212,384 meals/snacks served
- 410 employers supported by allowing parents to work
- 141 after school-based jobs supported



The Need

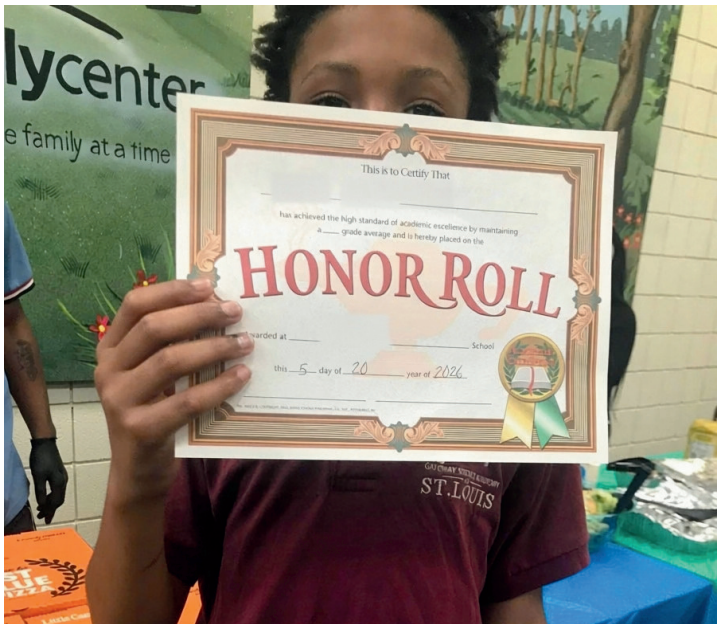
For over two decades, **Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS) After School Initiative** has consistently served as a critical workforce support strategy for families throughout the St. Louis region.

After School programs strategically enhance the lives of young people and their families by offering opportunities for learning, recreation, socialization, and personal development. These programs allow parents to focus on work, training, or college completion with confidence that their children are safe, engaged, and supported.

Research from the After School Alliance continues to show strong parent support for After School programming, with approximately four in five parents reporting that these programs help them keep their jobs, reduce stress, and provide peace of mind regarding their children's safety and well-being.

Investing in quality After School programming is a proven strategy for improving outcomes for youth and supporting working families. While the impact of these programs is well documented, demand continues to exceed available capacity.

ARCHS continues to be recognized as a regional leader in expanding equitable access to high-quality After School opportunities, helping children succeed academically and socially while reducing barriers that often prevent parents from participating fully in the workforce.



Impact: Students & Parents

Data from the 2025-2026 school year further demonstrate the scale of ARCHS' impact.

Through ARCHS' partnership with the State of Missouri, a **$2.3 million** investment in free after school programming served **1,265 youth**, providing families with access to high-quality After School opportunities at no cost.

If families had been required to pay for these services themselves, they would have collectively spent approximately **$5 million out of pocket.**

Instead, those dollars remained in household budgets and were reinvested into the local economy through spending on housing, transportation, food, healthcare, education, and other family necessities.



ARCHS' After School impact extends beyond families to employers and the broader workforce.

During the 2025-2026 school year, the ARCHS' programs supported parents working for **410 employers** across 13 industry sectors, helping ensure workforce stability by reducing childcare barriers that often interfere with attendance, retention, and career advancement.



Impact: Working Families



By providing dependable After School services, ARCHS' programs allow parents to remain focused on their work and educational goals while knowing their children are in safe, supportive settings.

Data from the past 3 years show that parents consistently report high levels of confidence in program quality, safety, and child well-being. Youth surveys similarly showed that the vast majority of participants felt safe, supported, and connected to caring adults. These outcomes demonstrate that this work functions as more than an after school program; it is a strategic investment in working families, economic mobility, and regional workforce development.

In summary, the three-year trend shows that ARCHS delivers a dual return on investment: children benefit from safe and enriching learning environments, while parents gain the stability needed to work, pursue education, and strengthen their family's economic future. The result is stronger families, a more reliable workforce, and millions of dollars in economic benefit retained within the St. Louis community.

Survey Results

This year's survey results continued to demonstrate exceptional impact and value for working families, with 93% of parents reporting that ARCHS-supported programs enable them to work, attend school, or pursue career advancement opportunities because their children are in safe, supervised, and enriching environments.

As part of its commitment to continuous improvement and accountability, ARCHS regularly measures program outcomes to ensure the needs of both youth and families are being met. These annual surveys of parents, students, and program staff serve as a critical tool for assessing program quality, effectiveness, and participant satisfaction. Findings from the 2025-2026 end-of-school-year surveys indicate consistently strong outcomes while also providing valuable insights that help guide program enhancements and strengthen services for the coming school year.

The consensus of parents/caregivers, youth, and staff is predominately positive; parents and youth alike illustrate a supportive picture:

- **A strong majority of parents/caretakers rating the program as good or excellent (92.3%).**
- **Students followed suit, rating the program quality as medium or high (97.7%).**
- **Similarly, staff reported program quality as good or excellent (88.0%).**





Parent Feedback



Parents also consider the program a critical resource for working families. For example, an overwhelming majority of parents/caretakers agree/strongly agree that the after school program allows me to work/attend school (92.6%), makes me feel more connected to my child's school (72.4%), and provided me with links to services and resources outside the school (73.5%).

Nearly all parents (86.2%) agreed with the statement, "I don't worry about my child when at the after school program." Survey results also suggest that parents view the after school program as a welcoming, inclusive environment.

Virtually all parents (89.4%) agreed that the after school program staff know their children and pay attention to how they are doing. In response to the statement, "The after school program has provided me with opportunities to connect with other families." 71% of parents agreed/strongly agreed.

Parent Voices

“It's because of this program that I am able to get to work on time and sustain employment. It's stressful being a working parent, but this program has helped alleviate some of that stress!”

“It was an excellent after school program that helped me to focus on my career. I firmly believe that my child is in safe hands, especially if there is an early release from school.”

“Program helps my kids academically if they are struggling in areas, the field trips they really enjoy, and it gives me time as a parent to do things after work, like make dinner, store runs, errands, or even just go home to relax a little.”



Partners



During the 2025-2026 school year, ARCHS issued $2.3 million in partnership with the State of Missouri to provide free after school programming for students in St. Louis City & County.

Partner Agencies:

Better Family Life
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis
Gene Slay's Girls and Boys Club
Jennings School District
KIPP: St. Louis Public Schools
Midtown Community Center
Northside Youth and Senior Service Center
St. Louis Public Schools
Youth & Family Center

Program Enrichment Partners:

Community Allies
Future In Action
Imagine Arts Academy
Mad Science of St. Louis

Program funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Total award: $2,336,863 (100% federal funding).



The Power of Partnering

Expertise | Resources | Funding

www.stlarchs.org